

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 12th September 1903.

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ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 31st August has the following:—

Macedonian affairs.

Affairs in Macedonia have assumed a very fearful aspect. All impartial European statesmen lay the blame of the Macedonian rising at the door of Russia. Russia has long been trying her best to establish her influence over the Balkan provinces and, with that view she, in conjunction with Austria, has been urging the Porte to reform the Government of those provinces and has at the same time been instigating their Christian population to make another attempt to throw off the Turkish yoke. If Russia had not seen that in this Macedonian affair England was on the side of the Porte and that her own diplomatic affairs in the Far East might, some day or other, call for her serious attention, she would have turned all her power against the Porte for securing the independence of Macedonia. The English Premier says that the recent rising in Turkey is headed by some turbulent people of Bulgaria. A war may thus be declared by Turkey against Bulgaria—a war which may result in a sanguinary conflict among the Powers. It is to be hoped that if a war breaks out between Turkey and Bulgaria, its result will not be similar to that of the last Græco-Turkish war.

ROZNAMA-I-MURAD-DAS HABLUL MATEEN,
Aug. 31st, 1903.

2. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September sarcastically observes that

The position of the Tibetan Mission.

the position of the Tibetan Mission at Khambajang is like that of the unenviable Pauranic Raja Trisanku, whom the gods would not admit to heaven, and whom the sage Biswamitra would not allow to come back to earth, and who was therefore suspended in mid-sky. The Tibetan representatives at Khambajang are denying their obligation to act according to the treaty of 1890, and are asking the Mission when they will return. The work of the Mission is thus at a standstill. China, although professing friendship for the English, is secretly obstructing the Mission's work. The Chinese representative at Lhasa has returned to China on the pretext of illness, and his successor also has returned on a similar pretext from the middle of his journey to Lhasa. Circumstances do not, in short, look quite auspicious.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1903.

3. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th September asks whether the Afridis,

Employment of Afridis in the Amir's service.

whom the Amir is employing in his military service, were not among those who fought against the British Government in the last Afridi war. If they really fought against the English Government, the Amir is not acting rightly in employing them.

HITAVARTA,
Sept. 6th, 1903.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

4. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 1st September has the following:—

Babu Srinath Mitra, Sub-Inspector of Police, Mymensingh.

Babu Srinath Mitra, Sub-Inspector of Police, Gopalpur thana, Mymensingh district, has been deputed to investigate the murder of Navakisore Sarkar. Taking the antecedents of this officer into consideration, it would be improper to allow him to enquire into such an important case. In the case in which one Samir Sheikh was alleged to have been murdered with poison, the Sub-Inspector sent up the accused, who at first confessed their guilt, but afterwards retracted their confession. Maya Bibi, the wife of the deceased and the principal accused in the case, stated that she had been induced by the Sub-Inspector to make the confession. The following extract from the judgment of the trying Deputy Magistrate will make the point clear:—

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 1st, 1903

"The medical evidence has proved, without a shadow of doubt, that no poison was administered to Samir. The trace of poison in the earthen pot containing dal appears to have been concocted by the investigating Sub-Inspector, who also tutored Bibijan, Sukhi and other witnesses. If the medical evidence had not disclosed the true facts, the consequence would have been very serious. It has been explained above how the earthen pot containing dal was tampered with.

"For the reasons stated above, I am of opinion that the case is false against both the accused, and direct their acquittal under section 209, C. P. C."

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 3rd, 1903.

5. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September publishes the following from its Noakhali correspondent:—

Outrage upon female modesty in the Noakhali district.

Fajil Miah, an inhabitant of *mauza* Shyamergaon in the Senbagh outpost, thana Begamgunge, lived with his wife, Hazra Banu, *alias* Chhayera, aged 14 or 15, and his younger brother Kabil, a boy of 11 or 12. Fajil's sister, Meher Banu, and her husband also lived in the same compound in a separate house. On the night of the 7th *Sravan* last, Thursday, when Fajil, his sister, and her husband were away and were not expected to return home that night, one Badar Ali entered the house in which the girl and the boy were asleep. Another man, named Hanu, followed him and put out the light. The girl began to cry when the men carried her out of the house in their arms, while Aku and Gani, two other men, gagged her with a piece of cloth to prevent her crying. The four men carried her to the southern side of the tank, near which was a jungle. The cries of the boy Kabil attracted the neighbours to the place, who rescued the girl from the ruffians. The husband returned home on Saturday and gave information to the police, who sent up three men, Badar Ali, Aku, and Gani for trial. Babu Sasibhusan Sen, Deputy Magistrate, has committed these men to the Sessions. The trial commences on the 14th September. It appears certain that the law is not sufficiently deterrent in stopping such outrages. Respectable and influential men should combine and help Government in putting an effective check upon these pests of society who outrage female modesty.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1903.

6. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September says

A case of oppression in the collection of the chaukidari-tax.

that the collecting panchayet of the Ilchhoba, Mandlai village in the Hooghly district has realised the chaukidari-tax along with fines from Jagabandhu Ghose and Upendranath Nandi without any previous *takid*, and from Jugalkishor Basu after giving him only one *takid*. The District Magistrate is requested to enquire into the matter.

HITAVADI.

7. Referring to the case in which the High Court has acquitted Baharuddin Chaudhuri, a respectable zamindar of Dinajpur,

The Dinajpur case of police oppression.

charged with having brought a false case against the Sub-Inspector of the Chintaman thana in the Dinajpur district, the same paper says that the High Court has done its duty, and it now remains for Government to do its duty in the case. But for the High Court, a respectable zamindar would have suffered imprisonment, and that for displeasing a *daroga*. If a *daroga* has power to commit so much oppression, how much more oppression must it be in the power of a higher police officer to commit? The case also shows what indulgence the higher police officers give to their subordinates, and how District Magistrates lend their support to police servants. There can be no reform of this except by separating judicial and executive functions.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 5th, 1903.

8. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th September publishes the following from correspondents:—

Oppressiveness of the chaukidari-tax.

Baghnepara, Burdwan.—In section 9 of the "Panchayet Guide" it is laid down that a panchayet is to be appointed for three years only, after which a new selection should be made. But in many places a new panchayet is very seldom appointed. The poor people, although in great distress, are compelled to pay the chaukidari-tax. The dafadars are a useless class of men, yet the villagers must pay them. There is enough chaukidari *chakran* land in this village. If the land is returned to the chaukidars and the villagers are relieved from the tax, as laid down in section 48 of the Act, a great blessing will be conferred upon the people.

Shachack-Poorsura, Hooghly.—The appointment of dafadars has increased the burden of taxation, but has not increased the usefulness of the chaukidar. Indeed, the dafadars serve no useful purpose. The chaukidars have now almost ceased going out on their rounds at night. If the chaukidari *chakran* lands are taken back from the zamindars on payment of proper compensation, and given to the chaukidars in return for their services, a great saving will in time be secured to the villagers. In the Poorsura village the number of chaukidars has been increased from two to four, and the poor villagers find it very difficult to pay the chaukidari-tax. In the Poorsura outpost there are 12

dafadars whose annual salary, at Rs. 6 per month for each, amounts to Rs. 864. This large sum is thrown away every year. If four additional constables are kept at the outpost to go out on rounds at night, they will do better work than the 12 dafadars, and the total cost will be only Rs. 432 at Rs. 9 each per month. This arrangement will make the burden of taxation much lighter.

9. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th September says that some time ago a coolie-recruiter enticed away four Bengali women of Calcutta to Fenchuganj for the purpose of selling them to Assam tea-planters. But this was detected by the Fenchuganj police and the poor women have been liberated. As they have, however, no money to defray the expense of their return journey to Calcutta, the poor women are in great difficulty. It is a pity that such cruel acts are committed within British territory and under the nose of high British functionaries.

HITAVARTA,
Sept. 6th, 1903.

10. The *Mistabhasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th September writes as follows:—
Reports reach us that Babu Nagendra Nath Sen, Sub-Inspector of Police, thana Daspur, in the Ghatal subdivision of the Midnapore district, is committing great illegalities among the people. His vanity and insolence are beyond description. He harasses the poor illiterate people most wantonly, and sometimes even flogs them mercilessly. He brutally insulted a woman who was a complainant.

MISTABHASI,
Sept. 8th, 1903.

11. In referring to condition 5 of the proposed police license for lodging-house keepers at Kalighat, the *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 9th September observes that to require a lodging-house keeper, as is proposed in the license, to inform the police of the coming to his premises of any deserter or suspected bad character would be to place him, as well as the intending tenant, in an extremely undesirable position. How is the lodging-house keeper to know that any particular arrival is an objectionable character? The only effect of his complying with the requirements of the license with regard to any particular pilgrim will be to make his lodging-house so unpopular that it may be shunned by all pilgrims. What, again, would be his fate if the person suspected by him, upon information received from others, were found on police enquiry to be innocent? In such cases he would incur great danger, while the person suspected might be subjected to needless harassment. Again, the provisions of condition 5 would be taken advantage of by unscrupulous lodging-house keepers for the purpose of extorting money from pilgrims and otherwise oppressing them.

PRATIJNA,
Sept. 9th, 1903.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

12. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 1st September says that the Munsifs of Kalna in the Burdwan district have outdone even Deputy Magistrates in irritability of temper. They always show great reluctance to allow parties time and opportunity to collect evidence and a strong desire to keep their files light. Perhaps they think that by harassing parties they would be able to keep their files light and then secure promotion. Thanks are given to the District Judge for his just order in regard to Babu Bipin Behari Mukherji, the Additional Munsif.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
Sept. 1st, 1903.

13. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 2nd September says that on that very date Babu Ashutosh Banerji, the Canal Deputy Collector of Midnapore, gave a kick to Jharheswar Rana, a blacksmith of Miyabazar town, for presenting to him a bill for annas 6 for repairs made to one of his office boxes. The amount of the bill was, however, paid. The writer was an eye-witness of this affair. The Deputy Babu should be transferred to the Orissa Coast Canal in order to get his temper cooled.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Sept. 2nd, 1903.

14. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 2nd September writes as follows:—
The scene on the day of Tilak's imprisonment. The uneasiness which the authorities displayed on the day of Tilak's imprisonment was something extraordinary. The Court building was surrounded by guards and native

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Sept. 2nd, 1903.

soldiers before the Court sat. Some European police officers were also in attendance. Why there should be such an unexpected demonstration no one could at first guess. When the Magistrate delivered judgment and handed the jail warrant to the police, Mr. Tilak was at once conducted to prison. As Mr. Tilak's Counsel intimated his desire to prefer an appeal and applied for bail, it is quite unintelligible why there should have been so much hurry in sending him to jail. Even the Sessions Judge failed to see the reason of this indecent haste.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1903.

15. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September is constantly receiving complaints against the Assistant Manager of the Patichara *cutcherry* under the Dinajpur Collectorate. His partiality for his relatives and co-religionists, his proneness to commit oppression, etc., are said to have driven out many an old officer from his service. Complaints charging him with having defiled Hindu *mandirs* have also been received. Every one in the estate is displeased with him. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

HITAVADI.

16. The same paper says that Kumar Ramendra Krishna Dev has become very unpopular in the Bogra district, of which he is the Magistrate. It is a shame that he shows great favour to a number of self-seeking flatterers of extremely bad character, men who have many convictions against them in criminal Courts. Theft, dacoity, rioting, etc., have increased in the Bogra district. Criminal cases are mostly dismissed on trivial grounds. The practice of serving witnesses with summonses has been stopped. The District Magistrate shows great fondness for *nautches*, songs, etc., by prostitutes. It is said that on the Divisional Commissioner's objecting to the site proposed by him for a rest-house, he is trying to gain his point by drawing the Nawab of Bogra to his side. He has not yet published an account of the Bogra Coronation Fund.

HITAVADI,

17. A correspondent of the same paper says that the 1st Munsif of Rampurhât in the Birbhum district, though old in years, is not a calm and considerate judge. He is very fond of summary proceedings and of deciding suits on plaints and written statements alone. Speaking of the District Judge, the correspondent says that recently that official came to inspect the Rampurhât Munsifi, and on seeing the records of rent-suit No. 1118 of 1902, asked the 1st Munsif:—"Why did you allow this *salz* so many adjournments to tell a thousand lies?" The 1st Munsif replied that he had done so on account of the illness of the father of an important witness. The District Judge then said:—"You are the *hakim* and not the *golam* of the public. You should look upon the public as your *golam*." If this report is true, the District Judge ought to receive a severe lesson from the authorities. Again, it is stated that recently the Subdivisional Officer of Rampurhât said to a mukhtar:—"তাই, ডেভিল" (stop, devil). He is in the habit of saying "তাই" to pleaders and mukhtars, a word which, although meaning "stop," is always used contemptuously in the Bengali language. His temper, also, is bad.

BASUMATI,
Sept. 5th, 1903.

18. Referring to the acquittal of Mr. Bain as the result of the Government's action in the Calcutta High Court, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September observes as follows:—

In the case of Mr. Bain, a curse has verily proved a boon. But our misgivings remain all the same. The Government's proceeding to have a retrial and an enhancement of punishment in the case of a European accused was as unusual as has been the judgment of the High Court ordering an acquittal without retrial on the ground of excessive punishment already undergone. Government has not only earned an unenviable notoriety for itself, but has placed the High Court in the same predicament.

PRAJARANJAN,
Sept. 5th, 1903.

19. The *Prajaranjan* [Tamluk] of the 5th September learns from a correspondent that on the 23rd August last the students of the Tamluk High School in the Midnapore district were playing football in the field adjoining Messrs. Watson and Company's *koothi*, when a son of the local

Deputy Magistrate picked a quarrel with them. The boys soon came to blows. When the news reached the Deputy Magistrate he sent a number of police constables. The latter went, arrested the boys, and brought them to the Deputy Babu's Court, where they were kept confined for one and-a-half hours. On the same evening the boys were tried by the local Sub-Registrar, who is also an Honorary Magistrate. In the meantime a number of respectable people hurried to the Court and objected to the arbitrary proceedings taken against the boys, who were at last released.

20. Referring to the acquittal of Mr. Bain by the High Court, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th September writes

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 5th, 1903.

The Bain case in the High Court. as follows:—

Although Mr. Bain has been declared innocent by the High Court, we have one very grave doubt in our mind which nothing can remove. Before the Bengal Government determined to make an appeal in this case, it must have carefully gone through the records. Mr. Justice Banerji and Mr. Justice Handley would never have sanctioned a retrial, nor would the Government have applied to the High Court for enhancement of the sentence, had the evidence in the case been really as weak as Mr. Justice Sale says that it is. Here therefore is a serious difference of opinion, two Judges of the High Court and the Bengal Government being on one side, and Mr. Justice Sale on the other. The Judge did not even think it necessary to empanel a jury. Now, who will pronounce upon the merits of the case and say on which side the error lies?

21. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th September says that in the appeal case of Baharuddin Chaudhuri of Dinajpur,

HITAVARTA,
Sept. 6th, 1903.

Justice Banerji on the case of Baharuddin of Dinajpur.

Justice Banerji remarked in very strong terms upon the conduct of the local Deputy and District Magistrates, as well as upon the conduct of the District Superintendent and of Daroga Mathura Nath Rakshit. The real cause of such mischief as has been seen in the case is the unlimited power which the Government has given the Indian police. The judicial and executive powers being in the hands of one and the same officer, the police is becoming more and more bold. The Magistrate being also the head of the police, naturally shows a leaning towards it, and the result is that the most heinous deeds of the police go unpunished, and the poor and helpless people fall victims to its brutal ferocity. Mr. Pennell knew full well the real character of the Indian police. It would be a wonder, indeed, if the police, with such unlimited power and with such countenance as it receives from the District Magistrate, did not commit atrocities. The trouble and inconvenience to which the rural population is subjected by the mufassal police is more than one can imagine, and yet those poor people dare not complain of the *zulm* of the police. All these circumstances enable the police to commit atrocities without any risk of detection or punishment. It is rarely, indeed, that the evil doings of the police are brought to light by an impartial officer.

22. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th September has the following in its English columns:—

The Bain case.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Sept. 8th, 1903.

The Bain case has been the occasion of an exchange of compliments and good wishes between the Anglo-Indians and the "natives" of Calcutta. The Anglo-Indian ill-feeling has filtered from the Press down to the individuals who, not content with the fighting done on their behalf by the *Englishman* and the *Pioneer*, are venting their spleen in the correspondence columns of these papers. The native community is seldom enthusiastic over anything. It never bothers itself with anything so foreign to its interests. The coolie who is said to have been killed is neither a son nor a brother nor any relation to any member of the influential native community, so why should there be shedding of tears over his corpse? The Native Press cannot take any initiative in the matter of having the oppressor's wrong redressed, because it has not the backing of the people. The Bain case has again refreshed our memory as to how the English people feel for their distressed countryman, stand by him in his affliction, and by a strong and unanimous expression of substantial sympathy for him, seek to give him an advantage over the "native" who dies "unknelled, uncoffined, and unknown."

The Native Press, as it is circumstanced, can only shed impotent tears and rave like old women.

The way in which Mr. Justice Sale has acted in the case is said to be not in accordance with law. The *Indian Nation*, which is edited by a gentleman who always sees deep into things and discovers flaws that have escaped expert eyes, thus discusses the legal aspect of the case:—

“We have no doubt that the opinion expressed by Mr. Justice Sale was an honest, independent opinion conscientiously arrived at after reading the evidence in the case. But we hope to be pardoned for expressing the doubts which we feel in regard to the legality of the procedure that has been followed in his Court. It is possible those doubts are due to our ignorance. But we entertain them conscientiously. The trial had been directed by a Division Bench of the High Court, which was a Court of competent jurisdiction for the purpose of the order it passed. Has the trial, which was directed, been held? No. Before holding any trial, Mr. Justice Sale expressed an opinion on the evidence that had been given in a trial elsewhere. Was he required to do that? Had he, under the circumstances, any authority to do that? If he was sitting as a Court of Appeal, he would unquestionably be justified in expressing an opinion on the evidence, on the strength of which the lower Court had arrived at a conclusion, and he might either confirm or set aside or modify the finding and the sentence of that Court. But he was not sitting as a Court of Appeal in this case, nor as a Court of Revision. He was sitting to hold a trial. It was for him to take evidence, and at the close of the evidence for the prosecution, if he found that there was no case to go to the jury, he might discharge the prisoner. If there was a *prima facie* case, he would have to hear the defence, give his charge to the jury, and take their verdict upon the counts. Instead of doing this, he chose to express an opinion on the evidence given in a trial held elsewhere. If the decision of the case was to depend upon *that* evidence, could not the Division Bench, which directed the trial, have come to a decision itself upon the record as it then stood? The direction for a fresh trial we take to be equivalent to a direction for the obliteration of the old record altogether. A fresh trial seems to have no other meaning. But Mr. Justice Sale began by expressing an opinion on a record which had virtually been obliterated by the order of the Division Bench. We speak with diffidence. If we are wrong, we hope somebody will point out to us where our error lies; that is how Mr. Justice Sale was justified in expressing an opinion on evidence which had been considered by the Division Bench before it made its order. He had to take fresh evidence, not to judge on evidence which was there. He was sitting in an original Court, whose business is to decide upon evidence given before itself and not upon evidence given in another Court. He had before him the order of the Division Bench which made a fresh trial compulsory.

“It may be said that Mr. Justice Sale did not refuse to try the case and that he could not very well try the case after the Advocate-General had entered a *nolle prosequi*. We hope to be pardoned for observing that the procedure followed by the Advocate-General strikes us as at least as extraordinary as the procedure followed by the learned Judge. If the Advocate-General thought that he had no case, would not the proper course have been for him to enter a *nolle prosequi* at once, that is, before the Judge had said anything? If he did not come to any such conclusion on his own account, we do not see why he should come to that conclusion ‘after the observations’ that fell from his Lordship? If the etiquette of the Bar demanded that the Advocate-General should enter a *nolle prosequi* after such observations as those made by the learned Judge, we have nothing to say. But so far as we are aware, no question of professional etiquette or courtesy is involved in the case. We see that both the Advocate-General and the Standing Counsel appeared for the Crown in the Sessions Court, instructed by the Public Prosecutor. Had neither of these gentlemen appeared before the Division Bench, or advised the Government before it decided to move the High Court? If these gentlemen or either of them were Counsel for the Government, or had advised the Government in the case before the Division Bench, at what stage did they change their opinion about the merits of the case? It would be interesting to know how the Advocate-General would establish his consistency.

Apart, however, from the question of the Advocate-General's consistency, a legal question arises in this case. Has the Advocate-General the right to enter a *nolle prosequi*, and, if entered, is it valid, in cases where a Division Bench of the High Court has directed a trial by the High Court in its original jurisdiction? We are not aware of any other case in which this point arose. A *nolle prosequi* has been entered only in cases which came in the ordinary course before the Sessions. In the present instance, Bain's case came before the Sessions not in the ordinary course but under orders of the High Court itself. Can an Advocate-General nullify the orders of a Division Bench of the High Court? We are not concerned with the merits of Bain's case, and express no opinion on a body of evidence which we have not read. But there are legal points in the case which are puzzling to our understanding. A Division Bench passed an order which has not been carried out. A Judge presiding in an original Court expressed opinion on a trial held elsewhere. In what capacity or under what authority this opinion was expressed, it is difficult to say. In spite of the High Court's order, the Advocate-General enters a *nolle prosequi*. Our wonder would be greater if we discovered that the Advocate-General himself had, by his advice or advocacy, obtained the order. It is clear that the Advocate-General decided to enter a *nolle prosequi* after the Judge's observations. We do not know what action the Government will take in the matter, or how the Judges of the Division Bench will receive what looks like a 'contempt' of their authority."

If the procedure is so very illegal, what is going to be done by our Press and public men to bring home to the Government the unusual conduct of the trying Judge?

The *Englishman* who has written a series of articles on the case, which for their unintelligible English and involved sentences conveyed no definite impression to us and were supposed only to be an attack on the Native Press, does not enter into the merits of the case. Mr. Justice Sale is an infallible Judge because His Lordship's view of the case favours the Anglo-Indian prejudice; the Calcutta High Court has at least in this particular instance justified its existence; the Native Press, which only thirsts for a European's blood, is disloyal and should be hanged and quartered—this is the drift of the articles in question. An impartial and unimpassioned review of such cases, an able discussion of its legal aspect can hardly be expected from our contemporary. His threats and roaring should not throw us into cowardly inactivity. None has got any private grudge against Mr. Bain or any Anglo-Indian; let him be let off if he is innocent. But every loyal subject of the King has a right to urge that the law of the land should be respected, and the perversity rests with those who want to drop the matter because events might take an unfavourable turn, and seek to intimidate others into silence by talking a great deal of nonsense about disaffection and disloyalty.

23. Referring to the Bain case, the *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 9th September asks:—

The Bain case.

Can Mr. Justice Sale say how the Revisional Bench of the High Court could order a retrial of Bain after being convinced of his innocence? His guilt was proved in the lower Court and the Advocate-General also was convinced of it. Is it not therefore a wonder that Mr. Justice Sale thought otherwise of the case? The High Court's partiality towards a white man has astonished everyone.

PALLIVASI,
Sept. 9th, 1903.

(d.)—Education.

24. Referring to the question of the appointment of a Professor for the Calcutta Bethune College in the place of the late Babu Aditya Kumar Chatterji, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September writes as follows:—

A vacant Professorship in the Bethune College, Calcutta.

It is to be regretted that the Secretary to the Bethune School Committee has as yet taken no steps for the appointment of a Professor in the Bethune College, although the Professorship has remained vacant for about a month and a half. Instead of calling a meeting of the Committee, the Secretary issued a circular to the members inquiring whether the Committee or the Director of Public Instruction should make the appointment. It is inexplicable

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 3rd, 1903.

why such a question should arise in his mind. Such conduct on the part of the Secretary shows either that he is ignorant of the constitution of the Committee or that he deliberately means to destroy it. The history of the formation of the Committee shows that after the amalgamation of the Bethune School with the *Banga-Mahila-Vidyalya*, which was conducted by the Brahmos, in 1878, Government appointed a Committee called "the Bethune School Committee" and entrusted it with the entire management of the school, the object being to secure the co-operation of those communities from which the girl-pupils came, so that no cause of complaint or apprehension might arise in the appointment of male teachers. The present Secretary, unlike his predecessor, has tried more than once to upset the established order of things by not caring to consult the Brahmo members, or indeed any members at all, when the question of the appointment of a Professor arose. If on the present occasion the Director is empowered to make the selection, then the Brahmos will lose an opportunity of expressing their opinion and the Committee itself will lose all its importance. We respectfully beg to draw the attention of the Director of Public Instruction and of the Government to this matter.

As regards the formation of the Committee, it is only fair to demand that the member or members from the different communities should bear a direct proportion to the number of pupils from each. It will be found that half the number of pupils in the School and College Departments of the Bethune College come from the Brahmo community. But in the appointment of members of the Committee this fact has never been taken into consideration. Out of only four Brahmo members, three at present remain. The transfer of Dr. P. K. Roy to Dacca has caused a vacancy which ought to be filled up by a Brahmo. As regards education, character, culture and experience, no greater names can be mentioned in Bengal than those of Dr. J. C. Bose, Dr. Nilratan Sircar, and Rai Rambrama Sanyal Bahadur. We hope one among these gentlemen will be appointed to fill up the vacancy in the Committee.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

HINDU RANJIKA,
Aug. 26th, 1903.

25. The *Hindu Ranjika* [Rajshahi] of the 26th August says that at the Kodalkati ferry, below the Rajshahi Jail, 6 pice and sometimes even 8 pice are charged upon people, the authorised fee being 4 pice. The attention of the District Magistrate is drawn to the matter.

PALLIVASI,
Sept. 2nd, 1903.

26. A correspondent of the *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 2nd September says that the narrow lane which passes by Chandi Saha's house in Kalna town has been made *pucca* by the local Municipality. This has been done to please the Sub-Deputy Magistrate of the place, who has hired Chandi Saha's house. On the other hand, the important road between Kansaripara and Chhotadeurhi road lies in a deplorable condition. The Municipality has engaged a man on Rs. 8 per month to guard the municipal tanks in Kansaripara and Bhaduripara, and another man on Rs. 2 per month to guard a ghat on the Hooghly. All this is sheer waste of public money.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 3rd 1903.

27. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September writes as follows:—
The method proposed by Government for the destruction of the mosquitoes which spread malaria in India, is, we are afraid, beyond the means of the villagers, very few of whom will appreciate its utility. These people cannot even afford to buy kerosene oil just sufficient to light a lamp when eating their meals at night. How can they be expected to make use of it for the purpose of killing mosquitoes? Those who have the means will make use of curtains to save themselves from mosquitoes and will not think of kerosene oil for their extermination. So the suggestion of Government regarding the use of kerosene oil for the purpose is likely to remain unheeded.

The obstruction of the natural water-courses in the villages by the Local and District Board roads should be removed. It is as important to kill mosquitoes as it is to remove the conditions which favour their generation. Little attention is paid by the Boards to the drains, which are not kept open by means of pipes, bridges, and culverts. Government should see that when

roads are constructed by the District and Local Boards, suitable arrangements are made for preventing the obstruction of water-courses. If this is done, the water which is contaminated by jute-steeping and the stagnant water of *dobas* will flow away.

Another cause of malaria is the jungle and hollows in the villages. If District Boards can manage to clear away jungle and fill up hollows, the lives of the villagers may be saved.

28. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September says that the arbitrariness and irregularities of the *manji* of the ferry boat on the Kharia river in the

A ferry complaint.

Meherpur village in the Nadia district cause great inconvenience to the public. Government should make the ferry *khas*, and remove public grievances in this matter.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1903.

HITAVADI.

The Tangail Municipality in the Mymensingh district.

29. A correspondent of the same paper says that it is a year since light-posts were erected from Tangail to Santosh within the Tangail Municipality in the Mymensingh district, but the Municipality has not yet made any provision for lights there. The attention of the Municipal Vice-Chairman is drawn to the matter.

HITAVADI.

The Shambazar bridge, Calcutta.

30. The same paper says that the want of gas-lights in the road between the Shambazar bridge and Belgachia, Calcutta, has become a source of great inconvenience to the local people owing to the electric traction of tram-cars on it. The Shambazar bridge should be provided with railings similar to those on the Kidderpore bridge.

The malaria circular.

31. Referring to the instructions issued by Government for the prevention of malarial fever, the *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th September says that the people of this country are perfectly willing to make such use of kerosene oil as is recommended by Government, if only it is supplied to them free of cost. It is hoped that an impetus will be given by this means to the consumption of that article by the natives of the country. The same remark applies to the use of quinine. This, too, should be supplied by Government *gratis*.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Sept. 5th, 1903.

The Santipur Municipality.

32. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 6th September quotes the Government order superseding the Municipal Commissioners of Santipur for one year, and says:—

RANGALAY,
Sep. 6th, 1903.

What we understand by this order is that because the above Municipal Commissioners have failed to impose ever-new taxes and open the door to every new expenditure recommended by the Sanitary Commissioner and other inspecting officers of Government, and because they have failed to introduce water-pipes, scavenger carts, open privies, drains, and kerosene—those panaceas for all evils that flesh is heir to, such as ailment, bereavement, accident, pestilence, and premature death—therefore they are idle, incompetent, worthless, and stupid, and must be superseded. Are we, then, to understand that, Government has appointed Babus as Municipal Commissioners everywhere only to lay taxes and spend their proceeds according to the orders of Europeans; that, in fact, they are being made cat's-paws of by the officials—a phrase we have learnt from *Æsop's Fables*? Let the cat, however, but utter a single moan as he puts his paws into the fire, and he will be forthwith superseded. Is this self-government? Is this the right that Lord Ripon conferred upon the Babus?

We heartily thank Mr. Bourdillon for his truthfulness. His outspokenness has forced us to realise the true situation. Lord Elgin opened our eyes by his Sedition Act and enabled us to realise the true value of the freedom of the Press of this country. Lord Curzon, by curtailing self-government in Calcutta, and Sir Alexander Mackenzie by calling the Babus thieves and bribe-takers, made us aware of our position. And now Mr. Bourdillon has opened our eyes by superseding the Municipal Commissioners of Santipur. We, for ourselves, O masters, would not be your lieutenants even in the administration of India—even in the government of the people. Govern yourself your own people, administer yourself your own dominion. Only rob us not, we pray you, of our right to pay taxes and make *salams*.

We have one thing to say to the Babus of Santipur. They have received enough insult for respectable men. Why not then bid adieu, once for all, to all

aspirations to municipal honours? Why seek that honour only to earn the censure of Government and incur the odium of their own people? They acted indiscreetly, in the first place, in becoming Commissioners and, in the second place, in not carrying out reforms according to European suggestion, and they have thus deserved to be punished. This is what Government says, and we, too, say the same thing.

HITAVARTA,
Sept. 6th, 1903.

33. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th September has heard that the Calcutta Municipality purposes to issue a circular prohibiting the flying of kites, the playing of games, and the delivery of lectures within the municipal squares of the town without the permission of the municipal authorities. Perhaps the Municipality, remarks the editor, intends to impose a law upon the people frequenting these places.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Sept. 8th, 1903.

34. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th September writes as follows:—

Impending water scarcity in the Bankura district.

In addition to the imminent distress, severe water scarcity in the Bankura district appears inevitable. It is not likely that Government will pay any attention to this matter, but it may draw the attention of the District Board to this important question. Government should ask for a report from the District Board stating the probable extent and severity of the impending water scarcity in the district. We believe that at least four times the money spent every year by the Board on wells and other reservoirs of drinking water will be required this year to meet requirements. Water scarcity is certainly a more serious calamity than scarcity of food, and as it is most severely felt in the Bankura district, the Government and the District Board should give their best attention to the subject.

ANUSANDHAN,
Sept. 9th, 1903.

35. The *Anusandhan* [Calcutta] of the 7th September writes:—

The Santipur Municipality.

The axe has been laid at the root of self-government in Santipur—Santipur, which is the foremost village in Bengal and has a population of 30,437 according to the last census. The idea of so important a place enjoying the right of self-government was distasteful to Government. Attempts were, therefore, being made for a long time to place the Municipality under an official Chairman. A pretext for so doing has now been found and the Municipality has been placed, for one year, under the absolute control of the Subdivisional Officer of Ranaghat. That officer has now become the arbiter of the destinies of self-government in Santipur. And what is the reason of the blow thus dealt to self-government? Why, there has been an increase in the death-rate during the last five years and the health of the Municipality has been injured and, therefore, an official Chairman must be appointed.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Sept. 2nd, 1903.

36. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

Jalkar property in the Backergunge district.

2nd September says that the *Bikas* of Barisal has published the alarming news that Government is trying to take *khas* possession of *jalkar* lands in the Backergunge district. Hitherto rivers, canals, etc., situated within a zamindari have been regarded as property belonging to the zamindar. The *Bikas* writes thus:—"In the settlement work now in progress in the Backergunge district, Government is trying to take *khas* possession of *jalkar*. Many zamindars will be reduced to penury by this action of Government." That Government seriously proposes to deprive zamindars of a portion of their zamindaris is indeed startling.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

PRATINIDHI,
Aug. 29th, 1903.

37. A correspondent of the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 29th August says

The Booking Clerk of the Chandpur station.

that a few days ago the Booking Clerk of the Chandpur steamer station in the Tippera district stopped selling tickets before the starting time of the steamer. The correspondent and some other people consequently missed the steamer. Such cases frequently occur in the station.

38. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 30th August complains of the new arrangement for the running of trains on the East Indian Railway which is to come into force from September 1903. The arrangement that No. 1 Up Punjab Mail will not stop at Hooghly, a most important junction station, or at any other station between Howrah and Burdwan, will cause great inconvenience to the many passengers who so long caught that train at Hooghly. These men must now go either to Howrah or to Burdwan for that purpose. The new arrangement should be strongly protested against, and the local public should make no delay in making the Local Government and the Agent of the East Indian Railway acquainted with their complaint in this connection.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Aug. 30th, 1903.

39. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] writes as follows:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Sept. 2nd, 1903.

Thefts in railway trains. All the efforts of the railway authorities have failed to stop thefts in railway carriages. The thieves are so clever and proficient in their art, that it is very difficult to trace them. On the 22nd of August last, a Judge of the Lahore Chief Court and a Barrister were on their way to Simla. Some thieves entered into their carriage at a small station between Lahore and Umballa and carried away some articles belonging to them. It is no small discredit to the railway authorities that they have entirely failed to prevent thefts on railways.

40. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 2nd September complains of the extremely bad condition of the *musafir-khana* (waiting-room) for third class passengers at the Kharagpur station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. It consists of two thatched houses of small dimensions, so that whenever there is a large gathering of passengers, many of them have to wait in the open space outside. Many holes have been formed in the roofs of the houses, through which water enters into them during rain. It is said that the houses are not lighted at night, so that passengers remain in constant fear of thieves. Sometimes passengers ease themselves within and outside the houses; but there is no arrangement for cleaning. There is no well near the *musafir-khana* for the use of the passengers. There are also no trees near it under which passengers may take shelter.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Sept. 2nd, 1903.

41. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September publishes the following railway complaints:—

HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1903.

Railway complaints. (1) Babu Priyanath Mukharji, Chachai, Ajhapur post-office, says that the want of separate waiting-rooms for males and females at the Devipur station, on the East Indian Railway, causes great inconvenience to passengers. The one waiting-room at the station should therefore be partitioned off for the use of males and females respectively. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the want of an over-bridge at the station. A *khalasi* collects tickets at the station, and if any passenger refuses to give him his ticket, he is abused.

(2) Babu Banwarilal Bari, village Navagram, Ausgram post-office, Burdwan district, says that, on the 18th August last, he paid Re. 1. to the Booking Clerk of the Guskara station, on the East Indian Railway, for two tickets to the Burdwan station. The correspondent was to have received back a balance of 7 annas, but the Booking Clerk kept him waiting for a few minutes, and then said that the balance had been paid to him. The numbers of the tickets were 829 and 830. The following persons were witnesses:—

Babu Baidyanath Chatterji, Clerk, Audit Office, Sealdah.
,, Sasibhusan Ray, Navagram, Ausgram post-office.
,, Devendra Chandra Datta, Kansaripara, Bhowanipore.

(3) Babu Surendra Nath Chakravarti, Birbhum, says that on the 16th August last, intending to travel by the up mixed train on the East Indian Railway, he asked the Booking Clerk of the Bolpur station for a ticket from Bolpur to Santa. But the Booking Clerk kept him waiting for a long time, and then abused him on being pressed for a ticket. The train steamed off, and the correspondent was left behind. The Booking Clerk next tried to realise from him the fare from Burdwan to Bolpur, but failed to do so on account of the presence of a number of respectable people at the place at that time. The

missing of the train caused great loss to the correspondent, who will be ready to prove his statement of the case if necessary.

(4) Babu Rajani Kanta Sarkar, Pakurhia, says that recently Srimati Rani Amrita Sundari Devi Chandhurani, zamindar of Golakhpur, in the Mymensingh district, sent, with many other things, 20 mangoes from Benares to the Atrai station on the northern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, addressed to one Sivanath Thakur, an inhabitant of the Pakurhia village, in the Rajshahi district, but four of the mangoes were stolen in transit. Another case of theft of mangoes was discovered in the station at the same time.

(5) Babu Fanibhusan Mukharji, Darbhanga, complains of the want of a waiting-room and of good latrine arrangements for females, at the Mokameh Ghat station on the East Indian Railway. This causes the greatest inconvenience to respectable female passengers by the Bengal North-Western Railway, who have to wait on the open verandah of the station for nearly two hours, exposed to the high wind which blows from the Ganges in all seasons of the year. The Loop mail train arrives at the station in the morning. Want of latrine arrangements, therefore, causes unspeakable hardship to females by obliging them to suppress the call of nature. The male passengers ease themselves on the bank of the Ganges. There are two latrines, side by side, at some distance from the station-house, but it is impossible for any respectable female to have recourse to them. The inconvenience is heightened by the fact that neither the ferry steamer at the place, nor the carriages in the trains on the Bengal North-Western Railway, have latrine arrangements for females. It is hoped that the railway authorities will lose no time in supplying their wants.

(6) Babu Pitambar Sarkar, Mukhtar, Bogra, says that, on the 16th August last, all the carriages, with the exception of one, in the passenger train on the B. S. B. Railway, which starts from the Fulchari station in the afternoon, and reaches Santahar at 10 P.M., were unprovided with light. Again, the intermediate class return fare being equal to two third class fares, the number of intermediate class passengers generally becomes large on this railway. But the trains are not provided with more than one intermediate class carriage.

(7) Babu Manindra Nath Mitra, Bagnan, Howrah district, says that, one morning in the month of June last, he alighted at the Mokameh Ghat station, on the East Indian Railway, travelling inter-class, with luggage which had been weighed at the Howrah station, and passed off free of charge, on account of its weighing only 17 seers. But a Bihari railway officer desired to weigh it at the Mokameh Ghat station, and dropped a hint to the effect that he wanted an illegal gratification. On the correspondent's refusing to pay any such thing, the luggage was weighed and declared to be 27 seers. No expostulation was of avail, and he was obliged to pay Re. 1-8 as luggage fare, but no receipt was given him, although he repeatedly asked for one. He afterwards heard that such cases of extortion were frequent at the station.

HITAVADI.

42. Babu Ram Chandra Banerji, Messrs. Graham and Co's. agent at Lakshmi Serai, writing to the same paper, says:—

A word for railway servants.

It is frequently complained by railway passengers that Booking Clerks harass them by refusing to take even good coin on the merest suspicion of anything wrong therein. It is, however, unknown to the public to what harassment the Booking Clerks themselves are subjected by the Treasurer. Rupees sent from the stations are clipped by the Treasurer on mere suspicion, and returned to the Station Masters to be made good by them. The Treasurer's word is paramount in these matters. If he says that he has received less money than what a Station Master professes to have sent, the latter must make good the deficit. The more the *Durga Puja* vacation is drawing near, the more the Treasury office is indulging in the freak of clipping rupees sent from the stations. Why should not passengers be therefore harassed at the stations on the score of bad coin?

Railway officers have also to extort money from passengers in order to bribe the railway police, who would otherwise commit great *zulm* on them. This is the state of things in the Keul Junction and many other stations on the East Indian Railway.

43. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 4th September writes as follows:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 4th, 1903.

A railway complaint.

There is no good platform at the Beliaghata station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Considering that this is a very important station, where a great number of passengers from and to Diamond Harbour, Budge-budge, and Canning Town, daily congregate a suitable platform should be provided there by the railway authorities as soon as possible. The present platform is so low that old people, women, and children find it very difficult to get into or alight from a carriage when a train arrives at the station.

44. The same paper writes as follows:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.

Bad roads in the Satkhira sub-division of the Khulna district.

The inhabitants of Mamdanipur, Nimpur, Kamta and other villages within the Kaliganj thana in the Khulna district, are faring badly for want of roads. The road from Satkhira to Kaliganj, which passes through these villages, sadly needs repair. The representations of the villagers to the Satkhira Local Board have produced no effect. This is much to be regretted. It is to be hoped that the authorities will see that the inconvenience of the poor villagers is removed.

45. A correspondent writes to the *People and Pratiwasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th September as follows:—

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Sept. 9th, 1903.

Hardship of female railway passengers.

On the station platforms at Howrah, both on the East Indian Railway and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, we often find third class female passengers sitting on the bare ground, all covered with dust. It is well known that even respectable native ladies often travel in third class carriages. It is hoped that benches will be provided at stations for third class female passengers. Whatever may be done with third class male passengers, the comforts of females should never be overlooked.

(h)—General.

46. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1903.

The Sub-Registrar of Tamluk in the Midnapore district..

The Sub-Registrar of Tamluk, in the Midnapore district, is also an Honorary Magistrate and the Vice-Chairman of the local Municipality. Such multiplicity of duties has most probably brought about disorder in all his works. We have sufficient evidence to show that it has done so at least in his registration work. The *Prajaranjan* newspaper of Tamluk having begun an agitation on the subject, an official friend of the Sub-Registrar tried to silence its manager with threats and inducements, but to the great credit of the latter, the attempt failed. Since then the *Projaranjan* has fallen into the bad graces of the local officials. We have evidence to prove all this, and we are making further enquiries in the matter.

47. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 4th September writes as follows:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 4th, 1903.

Postal complaints.

The Postmaster of Baduria in the 24-Paraganas district causes great inconvenience to the public by making unusual delay in the registration of letters and sometimes by disallowing the sale of postage stamps. There are great irregularities in the delivery of money-orders. A money-order sent to Babu Jatindra Mohan Basu, Sub-Registrar, from Calcutta, in the month of *Baisakh* last, was delivered after five or six days. Another money-order sent to Mahammad Yakub Saheb from Calcutta on the 11th June last was delivered on the 17th.

In the Arbalia post-office near Baduria, which serves 42 villages, there is only one delivery peon. This is a source of great inconvenience to the public. One more peon should be appointed without delay. If a new post-office is opened at Jadurhati, much public inconvenience will be removed.

III.—LEGISLATION.

48. Referring to the proposed amendment of the Official Secrets Act, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 2nd September writes as follows:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Sept. 2nd, 1903.

The Official Secrets Act Amendment Bill.

Our rulers, when they do some secret (unjust?) act, try to keep all papers connected with it out of the public view, for the obvious reason that their publication will seriously jeopardise their reputation. It was with the object of preventing newspaper editors from publishing such

papers that the Act first came into existence. But there are certain matters which do not come under its purview, and the publication of which brings some discredit upon Government. This explains the anxiety of Government to amend the Act as soon as possible.

The objections to the proposed amendment consist, first, in making section 3 of the Act much more rigorous than it is at present, and, secondly, in throwing the burden of proof on the defendant. What could be more monstrous than to make the accused prove his innocence? This is against the recognised principle of the enlightened British Government.

Many jobberies are committed in almost all the departments of Government. Under the amended Act, serious misfortune will be the portion of the man, be he an editor of a newspaper or an officer of Government, who will dare to make public any of those jobberies. The sword of Damocles will always remain hanging over their heads.

In our opinion the old Act was quite sufficient for all legitimate purposes. We expected that under Lord Curzon the policy of keeping secrets would meet with its termination. We fervently hoped that under His Excellency the administrative policy of Government would be based upon the broadest principles. But what Government is actually doing leaves us no hope; and it seems that we are doomed to utter disappointment.

In England a law exists which prohibits the publication of only military secrets. When the government of Lord Lansdowne deposed the Maharaja of Kashmir, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* published the substance of an official document relating to Gilgit affairs. Government was placed, in consequence of this, in an awkward position, and the passing of the Official Secrets Act was the result.

Opinion is divided as to the motives which actuated Lord Curzon in this matter. Those who are firm believers in his love of justice give it as their opinion that the amended Act will do no harm. Instead of curtailing the liberty of the Native Press, they say, His Excellency will give it even greater freedom than it at present possesses. What can the paternal Government have to hide from the ever-loyal people of India? Mistrust has been the source of all the misery which India suffers. We can never bring ourselves to believe that Lord Curzon will allow the old prejudice to warp his judgment.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 3rd, 1903.

49. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September writes as follows:—

The Official Secrets Act Amendment Bill.

Government passed the Official Secrets Act with a view to prevent the publication of official secrets. Thinking that this Act has failed to meet the desired end, Government proposes to make it still more complete and stringent. In the Act the *onus probandi* lies upon the complainant. But in the proposed measure it is proposed to shift this burden upon the defendant. This is an innovation of the worst kind, and the whole country should strongly protest against it. Another dangerous aspect of the proposed amendment consists in this, that the moment a person is suspected of having published any official secret, he will be at once arrested, and the Judge will have power to go through all the preliminary proceedings before the sanction of Government to the prosecution is obtained. In a country where the people have no voice in the Government, the liberty of the native papers should never be curtailed, for they alone represent the views of the public.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1903.

50. Referring to the proposed amendment of the Official Secrets Act, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September writes as follows:—

The proposed amendment of the Official Secrets Act.

How many editors of the Native Press are able to see through the screen of officialdom and to become acquainted with official secrets? An editor here and an editor there may, by pure chance, have lighted on some official secrets and entered upon discussions thereon; but such discoveries are not known to have done any harm to the State. No Indian editor has ever offered any hindrance to the Government of the country. We see and we discuss only that which is brought outside; what remains inside is known only to the people inside. And native editors have not, for certain, acquired omniscience by means of *yoga*. Why then frighten them with the spectre of a law against the publication of official secrets?

Lord Curzon was for a long time connected with newspapers, and he surely knows how precious to a country is the freedom of its Press. It is therefore difficult to understand why he should be troubled with fears about official secrets. India is inhabited by many classes of people, and Lord Curzon has a good deal of experience regarding all of them. But can he say that any one of them tries to foment discontent against the Government of the country by bringing political secrets to light? Why then has the proposed amendment been devised? If any sensible man can explain its use and object, very well; if not, the idea will take firm possession of the people's mind that the Government of the country is not following the path of fair play and fair policy. Straightforward actions require not to be concealed; crookedness alone demands concealment. We never thought that free discussion and criticism would be made so thorny during the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon, in the reign of King Edward VII, and at the commencement of the twentieth century.

The Native Press has on some occasions discussed official secrets, and three or four English and Bengali newspapers have, by so doing, incurred the displeasure of many officials. But these discussions have always done good, and never any harm. News are first published in the Anglo-Indian Press, and it is the officials who secretly communicate them to it. Sometimes these officials go so far as to write articles in the Anglo-Indian newspapers. It cannot be that a ruler like Lord Curzon does not know this. But the amendment is not intended for these officials. It is intended to operate against the Native Press, which incurs the displeasure of the *sahebs* by publishing tales of injustice and oppression and by bringing to light acts indicative of official partiality and official documents giving expression to their biased views.

The amendment will be passed next winter, and the Anglo-Indian Press is still silent about it. This means that the proposed law is intended only for the Native Press.

If there is no injustice and oppression in the country, and if officials do not give expression to opinions coloured by partiality, where can the Native Press find a secret to divulge? In a State ruled by the progressive British Government it is impossible to gag the Press or beguile the public. Opportunities must now and then occur, enabling people to see through the screen. Government cannot take away the eyes and ears of the public by merely desiring to keep things secret from them. On the contrary, suppression of public criticism will lead people to regard every movement of the Government with suspicion, and even acts intended by it to promote public welfare will give rise to groundless apprehensions by reason of their being obliged to look at them indistinctly and in fragments.

When the Act was first passed, we considered it as an indication of weakness given by the Government of the country. It has, since then, remained a dead letter. Attempts were several times made to incriminate us under it, but they always failed owing to its insufficiency. But if it is made more strict, the Native Press will not fare well.

51. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September writes as follows:—

The Official Secrets Act Amendment Bill.

The Indian Official Secrets Act Amendment Bill verily proposes to kill a gnat on a cannon. A similar law in England provides only against the publication of important military secrets. The only object with which this gnat-killing Gatling gun has been planted is to keep official vagaries and jobberies secret. But even such a measure has failed to please the officials. On the last occasion, Kashmir was their object; this time Berar's turn has probably come. Not only in India, but also in England, Government had to face much opposition in the Berar affair. The disclosures in the Panna case also created an unpleasantness in England which has not yet disappeared. Quite recently the Bilaspur case in the Punjab has caused great sensation. The publication of the accounts of such and numerous similar cases in various quarters has been giving great trouble to Government. The legal advisers of Government must have found the old Act quite incompetent to meet all the cases which arise, and hence its amendment has been determined upon. There are some people who assert with much show of reason that the revelations in connexion with the secret Railway Conference, which desired to favour Europeans and Eurasians at the expense of the natives, have led

BASUMATI,
Sept. 5th, 1903.

Government to amend the Act. The fact, however, is that nothing will stop the publication of official secrets. The best policy for Government to adopt under the circumstances will be to so manage matters that the necessity for the publication of "secrets" may not arise. No amount of sandal-wood paste will stop the offensive smell issuing from a diseased body.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Sept. 6th, 1903.

52. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 6th September says that exception is being taken to the Bengal Settled Estates Bill on various grounds. Some say that it will rob zamindars of funeral oblations from all other sons than the eldest; others say that it is opposed to the Hindu *Sastras*; and others, again, that it runs counter to the Queen's Proclamation. The measure has, however, the support of Manu, who declares only the eldest son entitled to offer funeral oblations, and, as such, entitled also to the whole of the paternal estate. This injunction of Manu, it is true, is not in force nowadays, all the sons being now equal sharers in the paternal property. But in Raj and zamindar families primogeniture still obtains, and there are rulings of the Privy Council in support of that practice. Seeing that by reason of minute subdivisions, large zamindaris are being split up into minute fragments in the course of half a century, and that owing to indolent habits induced by the expectation of inheriting ancestral property, the other sons of zamindars are losing even such fractions of the ancestral property as fall to their lot, Government cannot be blamed for its endeavour to maintain historic estates intact. But where the eldest son is a spendthrift, there should be a provision vesting the zamindari in that one among his brothers who appears best able to protect it.

No law can be of permanent application, and laws must be changed as time and circumstances change. That a change has become necessary in the law of inheritance of zamindaris is now felt by all but sons of zamindars other than the eldest.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Sept. 7th, 1903.

53. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 7th September has the following in its English columns:—

The Settled Estates Bill.

The reason which has obviously rendered the Bill necessary is to prevent subdivision of estates owing to the operation of the ordinary rules of inheritance. It is assumed that the existence of wealthy families is a necessity, political or otherwise. Whether the proposition will be universally admitted without dispute is open to doubt. There is a class of thinkers who consider concentration of wealth in one hand as opposed to the ultimate interests of the community. As for their political value, we consider it to be almost *nil*. It is a mistake to suppose that the landed classes are the natural leaders of the people. The spirit of the age is essentially democratic, and where the views of the people do not fall in with those of the zamindar, people very generally refuse to follow his lead. Bengal at the present day affords numerous instances of it. But supposing the question to be no longer an open one, is the Bill such as those interested could desire? We are afraid, not. To us it seems that the Bill does not go far enough. The estate under the Bill will be held for life for two generations only, viz., the settler and his son. But the third generation will get it absolutely, and he shall be competent to deal with it in any way he likes. He may indeed desire to renew the settlement, but should he feel otherwise disposed, the evils sought to be remedied will begin afresh. And the wealthy and the historic family may go to irretrievable decay in spite of the Bill.

The English law abhors perpetuity, and the English Government in India cannot shake itself of its terrors. Whether the Hindu law is the same, the orthodox Hindu lawyers do sincerely doubt, but supposing that as regards perpetuity the law is the same here as in England, it does not appear clear why the principle of perpetuity should be so religiously adhered to. The Bill does away with the ordinary rules of inheritance by a stroke of the pen. Why cannot the same be done in regard to the law of perpetuity if it is, as we apprehend, at all in the way? If the younger sons should be compelled to abdicate their birthright according to the law of their country, why, they have a right to insist that in exchange for it the name of the family should be kept alive for ever. This is the motive that can induce the founders of

fortunes to make a settlement and this is the *solatium* that can alone prevail with those that would thus be deprived of their legitimate rights.

The other provision of the Bill to which we have referred is regarding the stamp duty. Is that a principle of equity, justice, and good conscience? Why should the fine be paid? If the estate yields 4 lakhs a year, the settler must pay into the treasury one lakh to enable him to obtain the benefit of the Act. Besides, the duty has been fixed so high that, considering the encumbered nature of the ordinary estates in Bengal, it may restrict the operation of the Act in a large measure. A Bengal zamindar can ordinarily only get on. He has hardly enough to spare, and to saddle him with a burden so heavy as that is like giving with one hand and taking away with the other. We trust that before the Bill is passed, it will be so remodelled as to effect the object it has in view with completeness and, at the same time, remove the disabilities which cupidity alone can prompt.

54. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 9th September says that the work of amending the Civil Procedure Code is becoming more and more difficult. Preparations for doing it are being made for the last eight years. Even in the hands of a Select Committee, which laboured on the work for three hours daily during a number of months in winter last, it has not advanced in any considerable degree. Various suggestions, arguments, and proposals have subsequently reached the Government; consequently, either the work will have to be postponed for another year, or the whole of the next legislative session will have to be devoted to it. It is, however, not desirable that such an urgent and important business should be greatly delayed.

PALLIVASI,
Sept. 9th, 1903.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

55. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th September prays Lord Curzon to favourably consider the prayer made to him by the Raja of Bilaspur for reinstatement in his *guddi*.

HITAVARTA,
Sept. 6th, 1903.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

56. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 2nd September has received a communication from its reporter announcing the prevalence of distress in the undermentioned villages within the Katwa subdivision of the Burdwan district:—

PALLIVASI,
Sept. 2nd, 1903.

Amgarhe, Kulut, Maragram, Sripur, Kantadihi, Chinispur, Anjalpur, Berhgram, Dastanagar, Kadampur, Kandara, Khanji, Chakta, Begunkola, Kankurhhati, Navagram, Mitangram, Tarhali, Surparha, Purulia, Ambalgram, Sivbin, Gangatikuri, Goruai, Ketugram, Kopa, Bhulkurhi, Traipura, Barend, Charki, Bahite, Banwariabad, Panchandi, Gopalpur, Kechune, Matalgram, Maurhi, Nirol, Khatandi, Pandugram, Ahia, Dadhia, Bahara, Palita, Koldanga, Posla, Melia, Rasui, Kulni, Bislamta, Kulun, Malun, Chitehati, Jhamatpur, Naihati, Sitahati, Nabpur, Dattabati, Haranpur, Liherhi, Baharan, Birahimpur, Goalparha, Lohaludi, Kongarpur, Katundidanga, Bilweshwar, Kandanal, Ankhol, Agardanga, Uchandi, Bajur, Kenudi, Bairgitla, Jamalpur, Seranji, Gonda, Kengendi, Khalipur, Kurjadanga, and other villages, 360 in all, under the Ketugram thana.

Paligram, Paschimparah, Fatepur, Majiarha, Ujirpur, Sarulia, Narayanpur, Salenda, Charhulia, Ramnagar, Ganpur, Irkhanda, Chanak, Keshherha, Mahisgarhe, Baruipara, Mahatanpara, Gopalpur, Bhinbhine, Gotista, Amdol, Siurh, Lakharia, Atghare, Kalyanpur, Ranigram, Kogram, Radhanagar, Kurhagram, Mangalkot, Jaharpur, Deulia, Natunhat, Jhilur, Konda, Krishnabati, Simulia, Chaitanyapur, Matharun, Khudarun, Singat, Bhanugram, Palisgram, Majgram, Bhatpara, Banpara, Sakona, Nayapara, Babladihi, Silut, Nigon, Kaichor, Jagishwardihi, Kshirgram, Itechargram, Govardhanpur, Basar-ban-kapasi, Bilwagram, Bainchi, Masaru, Palkhana, Syambazar, Pindira, Lakshmipur, Kherua, Khaurhi, Maliarha, Kongarpur, Baurhi, Dhanyarashi, Husanpur, Srikrishnapur, and other villages under the Mangalkot thana.

Gopalpur, Gonda, Alampur, Ganfulia, Bijnagar, Raipara, Sudhpur, Bandh-murha, Khajurdihi, Dairhat, Pataihat, Srikhanda, and other villages under the Katwa thana.

PALLIVASI.

57. A correspondent of the same paper speaks of the prevalence of severe distress within the Katwa subdivision of the Burdwan district. There has been a great rise in the market price of rice. People are living on vegetables. The condition of the northern part of the Mangalkot thana, of the whole of the Ketugram thana, and of the north-western part of the Katwa thana is extremely miserable.

MEDINI BANDHAY,
Sept. 2nd, 1903.

58. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 2nd September says that severe distress prevails in every part of the Midnapore district, and publishes two letters containing the following accounts:—

(1) *Pataspur, Naipur*.—Severe distress in Naipur and the surrounding villages. If there be no rainfall within a week, all paddy plants will be destroyed by insects. Those who have stores of paddy in their houses have stopped selling paddy in view of a long and severe famine. Loans are not to be had. People are living on vegetables. Deaths from starvation will most probably occur after the current month of *Bhadra* (B.S.).

(2) *Danton, Sauri*.—The big Sauri village has been overtaken by severe distress. No rainfall. The paddy crop destroyed by drought and insects. Of the 2,500 inhabitants of the village, 1,500 are living on meals taken at intervals of one or two days, 400 are getting only one meal a day, and 200 are with great difficulty procuring two meals a day, and are expected to do so for three or four months more. The remaining two or three hundred people only will, it is hoped, be able to support themselves till the end of the year 1904. Cultivators are selling their plough cattle. Hundreds of cows are sold on Sundays in a *hât* in the Asada village, a distance of four miles. The condition of all villages within a radius of many miles from the Sauri village is similar to that of the latter.

(3) *Doro*.—Prospects of cultivation not yet fair. Rainfall still scanty.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 3rd, 1903.

59. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September publishes the following from a correspondent:—

Distress in the Birbhum district. Rainfall has been very deficient in the villages Fatehpur, Mallarpur, Aral, Podda, Haripur, Nakra, Bhatgara, Singeri, Ramchandrapur, Gopaljan and other places in thana Mayureshwar, subdivision Rampur Hât, district Birbhum. The seedlings are withering away in the few fields that were cultivated. Famine seems imminent. The day-labourers are in very great difficulty. Cultivation work being stopped, these people get no work. The *mahajans* refuse to give loans of money or paddy. The famished people, in sheer despair, have begun to commit thefts and dacoities. The following cases have occurred:—

(1) On the 2nd *Bhadra*, a gang of *dacoits* consisting of 300 or 400 persons, including women and children, committed *dacoity* in the house of Ramlal Mandal, of Podda village in thana Mayureshwar. They broke open the doors with axes, and seriously wounded one of Ramlal Mandal's daughters-in-law. They carried away paddy, rice, ornaments, and cash estimated at Rs. 1,000 in all.

(2) On the 1st *Bhadra*, *dacoits* numbering 24 or 25 entered into the house of the nephew of Banku Mandal, an inhabitant of village Haripur in thana Mayureshwar, and carried away ornaments worth about Rs. 100, inflicting severe burns on his nephew and sister-in-law with torches.

(3) On the same day and in the same thana, 30 or 40 *dacoits* carried away paddy worth about Rs. 100 from the farm-house of Andar Banwari Mandal, of village Gopaljan.

(4) A few days before the above case, *dacoits* broke into the house of Nabin Chandra Ghosh, of Bilaspur in the same thana, and carried away ornaments and cash estimated at Rs. 150.

These are the more serious cases. Petty thefts are occurring almost every night. The police have failed to trace a single case. This is a most serious

state of things. Government should open relief works and take other measures for relief of distress.

60. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September publishes two letters to the following effect:—

HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1903.

Distress in the Birbhum and Burdwan districts.

(1) Severe distress in most of the villages under the Mayureshwar thana in the Birbhum district. No rainfall in Sahidarhat, Nandigram, Taloan, Kalikapur, Pahana, Pipulgram, Dhalsimuli, Dwarurhi, Brahman Baharha, Chaljaoa, Mayureshwar, Mahurhapur, Parulia and other villages. Crime has increased.

(2) Cultivation stopped on account of drought in the Jijira village under the Ausgram post-office in the Burdwan district. *Mahajans* have stopped lending. Day-labourers, unable to procure work, are passing several days without food. Drinking water also scarce.

61. The same paper says that masses of correspondence, such as it has not space even to barely mention, are reaching it about the prevalence of distress in the mufassal.

HITAVADI

Distress in the country. News of severe distress are arriving from the Birbhum, Midnapore, Manbhum, Bankura, and Burdwan districts. The authorities should institute an enquiry and take care that no man dies of starvation.

62. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th September writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI
Sept. 5th, 1903.

Alleged official highhandedness in connection with distress in the Midnapore district.

The accounts of distress in the Midnapore district which have been regularly published in the two papers, the *Medini Bandhav* and the *Prajaranjan*, have not yet been contradicted by any one representing the Government. But the allegations made in the *Medini Bandhav* last week have really astonished us. The editor of the *Prajaranjan* appears to have been rather seriously handled. The question now is—Is the alleged distress true? Has any Government official proved it to be false? Is the alleged intimidation, true? If true, had anybody any right to intimidate?

We implore His Honour the Lieutenant-Government of Bengal to send a high official to Midnapore at once to make a sifting enquiry into the matter. Otherwise the anxiety in the public mind will not be removed.

63. The same paper publishes the following from a correspondent:—

BANGAVASI.

Distress in the Midnapore district.

In the villages in pargana Khatnagar in the Midnapore district crops have suffered greatly owing to the failure of the rains. The *aus* paddy has almost withered away. The sufferings of the poor villagers are extreme. They depend upon the seeds of the *syama* grass for their support. But even these have become scarce. The *mahajans* refuse to make advances of paddy. Labourers get no work. Government should come to the help of the people, otherwise loss of life will be inevitable.

64. The same paper publishes the following from correspondents:—

BANGAVASI.

Distress in many places.

Tippera, Chandpur, Damodandi.—In this quarter the jute crop has suffered great loss on account of insufficient rain. The condition of paddy is also not hopeful. People are apprehending great trouble in the near future and famine seems imminent. Many are maintaining themselves with great difficulty.

Burdwan, Mankur, Amvargarh.—In the month of *Sravan* not a drop of rain fell. The tanks are all nearly dried up. Cultivation has been a total failure. Some people have gone to other places. In addition to all these, there is the *chaukidari-tax*.

Burdwan, Mankur, Parisha.—Owing to want of rain, paddy-fields have not been at all cultivated. The outturn of paddy during the last two years was insufficient. This year there is no more hope of cultivation. Many people find it difficult to get their daily food. Many Santals are living entirely upon palm fruits.

65. Panchananda contributes a cartoon to the same paper headed "Where ?

BANGAVASI.

A cartoon.

None." An Englishman, evidently meant for Lord George Hamilton, is shown as standing and making a speech, with a flourish of his hands and in a most defiant manner, while by his side stands an emaciated and skeleton-like black figure, which is

presumably that of a hungry and famine-stricken Indian. The letter press is as follows:—

In England the authority next to the highest is saying with great emphasis "Who says there is distress arising from scarcity of food in India? Who says there is famine? Where is it? Where? There is none, none. Look there, a shower of rain is falling in that country."

NIHAR,
Sept. 8th, 1903.

66. A correspondent from Danton in the Midnapore district writes to the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 8th September as follows:—
Distress in the Midnapore district.

The inhabitants of Kedar, Dhaneswarpur, Jageria, Basantapur, Kunjapur, Gangtia and other villages in the Danton thana have been reduced to great straits owing to failure of crops for some years past. Cultivation has greatly suffered this year owing to deficient rainfall. Labourers get no work. Those who have got stocks of paddy in their possession, refuse to make advances to the poor people, as there is no prospect of a good harvest. People have been reduced to eating leaves and shrubs. But not even these are now available. Government should lose no time in making satisfactory arrangements to save the lives of the people. Otherwise hundreds of poor people will die of starvation.

PALLIVASI,
Sept. 9th, 1903.

67. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 9th September has the following:—

Distress in Katwa.

As in the Midnapore district, the distress in Katwa has assumed a very dangerous aspect. Perhaps the situation in Katwa is even more serious. There has been difference of opinion between the Government officials and the public as regards the intensity of the distress in Midnapore. But in Katwa, be it said to the honour of the officials, they fully concur with the public in their view.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Sept. 2nd, 1903.

68. Referring to the ivory furniture controversy, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 2nd September ironically observes as follows:—

The ivory furniture controversy.

The publication of the letter of the Maharaja of Benares explaining the circumstances under which the transfer of a suite of ivory furniture to the Viceroy took place, will no doubt put Mrs. Smeaton, and particularly Mr. MacNeill, India's friend and Member of Parliament, to shame. We don't know with what object Mrs Smeaton wrote her letter. Nor is it clear why Mr. MacNeill raised such a frivolous question in Parliament. Mr. MacNeill ought to have known that the Indians are an exceedingly loyal people. Moreover, Lord Curzon is a very clever man and possesses great knowledge of law. Why should he therefore do an unjust act? Besides, supposing him to have done such an act, would it be possible to prove it by means of Indian witnesses? We are quite certain that Lord Curzon can do no wrong. On the other hand, there is no reason why the truth of the contents of the Maharaja's letter should be doubted.

The loyalty of the Indian Princes is well known. They never try to find out the shortcomings of the Sovereign or his representative. Even if the Viceroy acts unjustly, the princes and zamindars of India worship him as they worship their gods. The British Parliament knows this very well.

The great Edmund Burke brought serious charges of oppression and tyranny practised upon the Rajas and zamindars of India against Warren Hastings. Did Mr. MacNeill forget what certificate the same Rajas and zamindars granted to Warren Hastings, disproving those charges and describing him as the best of men? The certificates of honour that were given to him by Nawabs Asafuddowla, Hyderbeg Khan, and the Rajas and zamindars of Rajmahal, serve only to prove the loyalty of the Indian people.

JYOTI.
Sept. 3rd, 1903.

69. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 3rd September refers to the open letter published by Miss Sarala Devi Ghosal advising the worship of past Indian heroes and hopes that her appeal, which is made to the rising generation of natives, will meet with an enthusiastic response. It seems that the great mother *Mahasakti* has appeared in this country as Miss Sarala to work the deliverance of this fallen nation.

Miss Sarala Devi's open letter to Indians.

70. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th September writes as follows:—

The ivory furniture question.

At last the grave doubt is removed. The cruel aspersions on the pure character of Lord Curzon cast in the letter of Mrs. Smeaton, have been effectually removed by the letters written by the Maharaja of Benares, the Commissioner of Lucknow, and Mr. Havell. Mrs. Smeaton's allegations have been disproved by what Mr. Havell has said. Her attempt to throw discredit on the pure character of Lord Curzon has miserably failed. Why Mrs. Smeaton should try to do such an unworthy act has been the subject of discussion in many quarters. Some say that the disappointment of Mr. Donald Smeaton, caused by his failure to become a Lieutenant-Governor, enraged Mrs. Smeaton so much that she actually made false allegations against the Viceroy. Most probably she did not utter an intentional falsehood, but was labouring under some erroneous belief. It is a great pity no doubt that, although Lord Curzon parted with a valuable article in return for another far less costly, yet his character was in danger of being seriously called in question. This affair ought to prove an excellent object-lesson to many persons. After what has happened in this case, it is not likely that any other high official will ever think of making such exchanges of presents with Rajas and zamindars.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 5th, 1903.

71. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 6th September has the following:—

An unsuitable ideal for Bengali women.

The day on which we were told that Miss Sarala Devi was making an endeavour to found a number of girls' schools, the news filled us with delight and she received our blessings, but now that she is reported to have established gymnasiums for teaching physical exercises, to be taking steps to make *lathi* and sword play popular in this country, to be posing as a lady apostle of political agitation and adopting active measures for getting up exhibitions of heroism on the *Birustami* day, fear makes us uneasy and suspicious. Thanks to English education, we have lost the old type of Hindu mother, and we had fondly hoped that the wholesome education which native girls would be enabled to receive in Miss Sarala's female schools would succeed in resuscitating that lost type. In Sanskrit literature and in Sanskrit *Puranas* and chronicles one comes across female characters who were wives and mothers of heroes, but under the influence of her English learning the Bengali girl of the day will be content with playing nothing short of the *role* of the hero herself. Bengal has always been known as the land of gems and jewels. Though she may not, at the present time, rightfully claim that distinction, she is undoubtedly entitled to be regarded as the land of book-reading and speech-making. It would have been certainly desirable if we, the males alone, had been permitted to enjoy the monopoly of all this English rubbish. The spectacle of Bengali women claiming a share of the monopoly simply makes us start in fear and surprise.

RANGALAY,
Sept. 6th, 1903.

URIYA PAPERS.

72. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August states that the week under review has been one of feeble monsoon conditions and short rainfall.

The weather in Orissa.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 29th, 1903.

73. The *Samvad Valika* [Balasore] of the 27th August states that in the interest of the standing crops more rain is required in the month of September current.

More rain required.

SAMVAD VALIKA,
Aug. 27th, 1903.

74. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August states that cholera has abated in the Cuttack town, and that though there are individual cases of fever here and there,

The health of Cuttack town.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 29th, 1903.

the general health of that town may be looked upon as good.

75. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 22nd August states that a resident of Behara Bhai in the Talcher State was killed by a tiger, and that deaths due to that cause in Bamra have increased.

Tigers in the Talcher State.

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 22nd, 1903.

76. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 29th August states that one man and one woman in the Talcher State and three men in the Hindol State were killed by tigers.

Man-eaters in the Talcher and Hindol States.

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 29th, 1903.

SARVAD VARIKA,
Aug. 20th, 1903.

77. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 20th August regrets to notice that the Opium Department under the Government of Bengal is being recruited mainly from the European and Eurasian communities in direct violation of the terms of the Queen's Proclamation, and that the Indians, notwithstanding their superior claims, are nowhere in that Department.

ALL THE URIYA
PAPERS.

78. All the native papers of Orissa thank Lord Curzon and His Excellency's Government for their protest against the imposition of a heavy sum of money on the Indian Exchequer by the English Ministry, aided by the Secretary of State for India. They regret that

The Government of India and the Home authorities on questions of military expenditure in India.

though this protest has proved successful in respect of the proposed imposition on account of the maintenance of the South African contingent, it has availed little to avert the new burden of £786,000 imposed on India on account of the increase of pay of British soldiers in India. The writers hope that all public Associations in India will join in strengthening the hands of the Indian Government and oppose the measure until the iniquitous burden is removed.

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 22nd, 1903.

79. Relying on the information supplied by the *Prajabandhu* of Ganjam, the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 22nd August thanks Mr. K. G. Gupta, the Commissioner of the Orissa Division, and the Bengal Government for their proposal to grant a pension of Rs. 50 per month to Mahamahopadhyaya Chandra Sekhar Samanta, of Khondpara, the distinguished Uriya astronomer of the old school, and hopes that the Government of India will sanction the proposal.

The proposed pension to an eminent Uriya astronomer.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 22nd, 1903.

80. Referring to the successes achieved by Mr. Rustumji Irani, a Parsi student from the Bombay Presidency, in Cooper's Hill College in England, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 22nd August regrets to point out that the policy of Lord George Hamilton with regard to the admission of Indian students into that institution is never sympathetic. Though the institution is maintained by the Indians, and though the object of the institution is to train up young men for service in India, His Lordship will not allow more than two Indian students to enter the College every year, in the face of the fact that no such restriction is placed on English students.

Indian students in Cooper's Hill College.

UTKALDIPIKA.

81. Referring to the Emperor's speech in Parliament, the same paper finds occasion to observe that His Majesty has been led to believe that India is in a prosperous state, though famines occur frequently and millions die of starvation in that country.

The King speaking of India's prosperity.

UTKALDIPIKA.

82. Referring to the resolution of Mr. K. G. Gupta in which he prohibited street processions accompanied with music within a distance of a quarter of a mile from a place of Christian worship in the Cuttack town on Sundays, the same paper explains how the Telegu weavers of Dewan Bazar, Sutahat and Bangali in that town were put to great difficulty in securing passes from the Police Office on the *Ganapurnima* day, how they had to stop all processions on the Sunday following the *Purnima*, and how they felt aggrieved and discontented at this unexpected interference with their religious customs and rites. Each of the parties was ordered to pay a fee of Rs. 5, though the sum was not accepted on account of some technical difficulty connected with the order. The writer advises the residents of Cuttack town to appeal against the injudicious orders of the Commissioner.

Mr. K. G. Gupta's circular.

UTKALDIPIKA.

83. Continuing its article on the economic condition of Orissa, past and present, the same paper regrets to point out that the substitution of the competition system for the nomination system, as far as the Provincial Civil Service is concerned, has made the District and Divisional Officers powerless in consequence of the centralisation of all power in the hands of the Government. The present race of District and Divisional Officers are mere birds of passage and do not mix with the people as the old class of officers used to do. They are thus unable to know the meritorious and able men in the communities in which they work and move, and are thus led to think that there

The economic condition of Orissa, past and present.

is a dearth of indigenous merit. Their desire to import foreign hands is, therefore, strong. The result is that, whereas under the old system a common clerk could climb up to the highest post in that service, under the new system even sarishtadars have no chance. Thus a great deal of experience is thrown away, which could have been utilised in the interest of the public, by bringing in raw youths from schools and colleges to preside over men who are their superior in many respects. It is true that the nomination system may lead to certain undesirable results, but no system is free from error or evil. The writer concludes by stating that the nomination system is better suited to the condition and requirements of Orissa.

84. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August is glad to find that a Uriya, by name Arjun Bhuyan, has graduated from the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, after

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A Uriya Engineer. many years, and hopes that the District Board of Cuttack, which helped him with money, will now see its way to provide him with employment in some way or other.

85. The same paper expresses its sorrow on the demise of Lord Salisbury, the late English Prime Minister, and states that the English people have lost in him an able Minister well versed in foreign politics.

UTKALDIPIKA.

86. The same paper is glad to learn that the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj has appointed Babu Kamapal Misra, a Uriya graduate, as an assistant to the Subdivisional Officer of Bamanghati in that State, and hopes that the Maharaja will henceforward patronise his countrymen as he promised to do in a recent meeting in Cuttack. This is very desirable, as a large number of foreigners have monopolised almost all the fat employments in the State.

UTKALDIPIKA.

87. In giving a short account of a garden-party held at Mr. Das's in Cuttack with the object of bidding adieu to Mr. B. N. Gupta, the second son of Mr. K. G. Gupta, who was proceeding to America to study electricity, the same paper finds occasion to observe that the dealings of Mr. Das with college students are very sympathetic and generous, for he has expressed his willingness to see such students every Sunday. The writer hopes that the college students will be encouraged by this announcement, and will not fail to profit by the lessons which the patriotism and disinterestedness of Mr. Das may have occasion to impart.

UTKALDIPIKA.

88. A correspondent of the same paper states that the Lingpur and Balkati ferry-ghats in the Puri district are not properly supervised, that the number of ferry-boats in those places is insufficient, and that the discomfort and inconvenience of passengers are very great. The writer hopes that the local authorities will attend to these complaints without delay.

UTKALDIPIKA.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 12th September, 1903.

